Met Office

September 2014

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1981-2010.

UK overview

September was dominated by high pressure, bringing plenty of fine and settled early-autumn weather, with only a few short interruptions. This meant that rainfall was limited in most regions, and temperatures were generally above average, though with no exceptional warmth on any particular days.

The UK mean temperature was 13.9 °C, 1.3 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. This made it the equal-fourth warmest September for the UK in a series since 1910, although not as warm as 2006. It was also only the fifth time that the UK mean temperature for September has equalled or exceeded that for August. Rainfall was well below average in most places, with less than 20% of the long-term average over large swathes of the country, and an overall UK figure of just 24% of average. This was the driest September in a series since 1910, though only slightly drier than 1959. It was also the driest calendar month for the UK since August 1995. Sunshine was very close to normal overall, though it was sunnier relative to average on the western side than further east.

A maximum temperature of 26.3 °C was recorded at Wiggonholt (West Sussex) on the 18th. A minimum temperature of -0.1 °C was recorded at Katesbridge (County Down) on the 8th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 GMT on the 19th, 115.4 mm of rain fell at Lacock (Wiltshire). A wind gust of 66 mph was recorded at Sella Ness (Shetland) on the 26th.

Weather impacts

The month was mostly fine and settled with few weather-related impacts. The north-east corner of Scotland saw some heavy rain on the 7th. On the morning of 19th, there was some localised heavy rainfall with thundery activity over southern parts of England, causing problems on the roads; this continued until the 20th in parts of the south-east. Some areas had thick fog on the mornings of 23rd, 29th and 30th, again mainly in the south, causing minor problems for motorists.

England diary of highlights

The month was dominated by high pressure, bringing plenty of fine and settled weather. Temperatures were largely above average, although easterly winds meant that daytime temperatures on the east coast were relatively suppressed. Rainfall was limited, though there were a few heavy showers at times during the second half of the month and on the 19th some large totals locally as a thundery frontal system moved across southern counties. Fog was reported on a few days during the second half of the month, especially in southern counties.

The mean temperature for the month was 1.2 °C above the 1981-2010 average. Rainfall overall was 22% of average, but some locations that were affected by localised intense downpours were nearer to normal. This was the equal-second driest September in a series from 1910, shared with 1910, and only 1959 was drier. Sunshine amounts were close to average for most areas, with 97% of average overall.

1st to 14th:

The 1st started with patchy rain in central and southern areas, although this cleared during the afternoon away from the south-east. High pressure built from the 2nd till the 4th resulting in generally fine conditions, but it was cloudy at times in many areas. The 5th was again dry and bright for much of the day but outbreaks of rain reached the Borders and the north-east during the evening. The 6th was mainly dry and bright for central areas but with rain in some eastern and southern areas. The 7th was mainly fine again, with only a very isolated shower in the south-east. The 8th was also dry and bright, but cloudier in northern areas. High pressure again dominated from the 9th till the 14th, many areas remaining dry with sunny spells, although eastern coastal areas were plagued by mist and low cloud at times and fog affected central areas in the early mornings. Temperatures reached the low to mid 20s in most areas.

15th to 20th:

The winds turned south-easterly on the 15th resulting in showers and low cloud for eastern and central areas with the west remaining dry and bright. The 16th was generally dry and sunny with 25 °C reached in West Sussex. There were outbreaks of light rain in Cornwall during the morning of the 17th but it was dry and bright elsewhere. Mainly dry and warm on the 18th with temperatures reaching 26.3 °C at Wiggonholt (West Sussex), but isolated showers broke out in Hampshire and Wiltshire during the afternoon. There were scattered heavy thundery showers for some southern and eastern areas on the 19th with Exeter (Devon) recording 41 mm in 3 hours during the morning and Linkenholt (Berkshire) recording 48 mm over the day. The 20th was generally dry and bright, but cooler in a north-west wind, with some patchy rain in northern and south-eastern areas.

21st to 30th:

High pressure built over the country again on the 21st giving a dry and bright day. The 22nd was also dry and bright, with the best of the sunshine away from the coast. A band of patchy rain spread from the north on the 23rd, reaching central areas by early evening. There were some heavy showers in southern and south-eastern areas in the morning of the 24th but these cleared to leave a bright afternoon. The 25th began with some patchy light rain in the north but generally dry elsewhere; feeling cooler in a north-west breeze. A band of patchy light rain over the north-west in the morning of the 26th cleared to give a bright and breezy afternoon. The 27th was dry and warm as high pressure built again from the south. The 28th was another dry, warm and sunny day with Heathrow and Kew Gardens (Greater London) reaching 25 °C. An area of showers spread in from the east during the 29th, reaching central areas during the afternoon and evening. The 30th was mainly dry and bright but patchy rain reached the far south-west in the evening.

Wales diary of highlights

The month saw generally fine and settled weather, dominated by high pressure, with very little in the way of rainfall throughout, and sunshine totals above average. Maximum temperatures were well above average, but with minima much closer to average.

The mean temperature for the month was 1.2 °C above the 1981-2010 average, making it the equal-third warmest September in a series from 1910. Rainfall overall was only 14% of average, and this was the third driest September since 1910. Sunshine totals amounted to 118% of the long-term average.

1st to 7th:

The 1st saw showers and patchy rain, but the cloud broke up with sunny periods for the afternoon and evening. The 2nd was dry with variable cloud, the best of the sunshine in the south. Dry and warm but cloudier on the 3rd. The 4th continued warm with more sunshine. The 5th was dry and warm with isolated showers over Anglesey, then the 6th was mainly dry and sunny apart from some showers in the south-east. The 7th was cooler but sunny.

8th to 22nd:

Sunny and dry once again on the 8th and 9th but with more cloud in the north. Warm, dry and sunny on the 10th and 11th. More cloudy with occasional sunny spells on the 12th to the 14th. The 15th was generally dry apart from some fog and mist early and then patchy light rain. The 16th was warm with 24.7 °C recorded at Whitechurch (Pembrokeshire), and mainly dry except for an isolated shower in the afternoon. Warm and dry with sunny spells on the 17th. Very warm on the 18th with 25.7 °C recorded at Whitechurch, but heavy thundery showers developed in South Wales by the late afternoon and evening. Showers continued, mainly in the south, until mid-afternoon on the 19th. The 20th was dry but dull, but the 21st was sunny. Early mist and fog cleared on the 22nd to give a dry and sunny day.

23rd to 30th:

Dry at first on the 23rd, but rain from the north-west crossed to the south-east during the afternoon and evening. Rain and showers continued in the early hours and morning of the 24th with drier and sunnier conditions by the afternoon. The 25th was cloudy with patchy drizzle and light rain at times, mainly in the south. Generally dry with sunny intervals on the 26th. The 27th was dry but mainly cloudy, but it was warmer and sunnier on the 28th. The 29th was cloudier with rain spreading north during the morning, becoming more extensive in central and northern parts through the afternoon but clearing by the evening. After a mostly dry start on the 30th, cloud increased with some rain moving from west to east during the afternoon and evening.

Scotland diary of highlights

The month was generally settled, although with a few days of rain or showers. There was a short wet spell on 5th to 6th, and on 26th a deep depression passed to the north bringing strong winds. Apart from this, it was mainly dry with temperatures mostly above average.

The mean temperature for the month was 1.6 °C above the 1981-2010 average, and this was the equal-third warmest September in a series from 1910. Rainfall overall was 29% of average, making it the second driest September over Scotland in the historical series, and it was especially dry towards the south-west. Sunshine amounts were near average, and slightly above for the Western Isles; Scotland overall received 97% of average sunshine hours.

1st to 4th:

The 1st was mainly dry and cloudy with a few bright or sunny spells. The 2nd was again mainly dry but mostly cloudy with a few brighter spells in the south and the north-east. Another mainly dry and cloudy day for the 3rd with a few brighter spells developing in the afternoon. The 4th was again a mostly cloudy day with some brighter or sunny spells developing, and it became warm where the sun shone with 24 °C at Lossiemouth (Moray). Some patchy rain developed later in the afternoon over the west.

5th to 7th:

The 5th saw a cold front moving east across the country bringing some rain, clearing to sunshine and some showers in the north-west. A fairly unsettled day in the north on the 6th with some showers or longer spells of rain, but dry in the south. Rain in the north-east on the 7th but dry and pleasant for the rest of the country as high pressure built.

8th to 21st:

Dry and settled across the country on the 8th apart from some light showers in late afternoon over the north-east. Apart from some showery rain in the west during the morning, it was another mainly dry day on the 9th. It was a dry and bright day for most areas on the 10th. There was mist or fog for many areas at first on the 11th but this cleared later in the morning and it became dry and bright. It was another foggy start for many areas on the 12th but this eventually cleared, giving most areas another dry and bright day. It was a dry but cloudy day on the 13th with mist or fog for many areas especially in the morning. Dry and settled again on 14th but

generally cloudy. A weather system brought rain to most eastern areas on the 15th but it was mainly dry in the west. Apart from a few scattered showers it was a mostly dry and warm day on the 16th, but cooler in the east with some fog. There was an east/west split on the 17th with fog, mist and low cloud in the east as well as a few showers but much brighter and warmer in the west with 23.1 °C recorded at Achnagart (Highland). Extensive mist, fog and drizzle on the 18th mostly receded to the east by the afternoon, keeping it cool here compared to the rest of the country. Another overcast day for many areas on the 19th with some mist, fog and drizzle especially in the east. Some patchy rain in the south at first on the 20th, becoming mostly dry apart from a few scattered showers as high pressure became established. The 21st was a dry and pleasant day, with hazy sunshine for many areas.

22nd to 30th:

A dry day for most areas on the 22nd but a band of patchy rain pushed into the north-west later before moving slowly south during the afternoon and early evening. It was a generally dry start in the east on the 23rd but with some patchy rain at first in the south, before a larger area of rain moved across the country from the west during the afternoon and evening. The rain soon cleared overnight into the 24th, and the rest of the day was mainly dry with some scattered showers. A breezy day on the 25th with rain at times in the north and west but mainly dry in the south and east. Another breezy day on the 26th with scattered blustery showers especially in the north. It was generally dry on the 27th with a few scattered showers in the north-west, but an area of rain pushed into the south-west later. A generally dry and warm day for most on the 28th but a slow-moving weather front brought some patchy rain to some central and southern areas. There was some patchy rain at first on the 29th but it became mainly dry and warm later. Showery outbreaks of rain in the west and north on the 30th but mainly dry in the east.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

Much of the month was settled, with high pressure in control and very little in the way of rainfall. Temperatures and sunshine amounts were both generally above average.

The mean temperature for the month was 0.9 °C above the 1981-2010 average. This was the equal-driest September in a series since 1910, shared with September 1986, with only 11% of the long-term average rainfall. Northern Ireland overall received 103% of average sunshine hours.

1st to 10th:

It was fine and dry through the first four days, overcast on the 1st and 2nd but sunny intervals developing on the 3rd and 4th and temperatures climbed to 21 to 22 °C in places on the 4th, reaching 22.5 °C at Castlederg (County Tyrone). Rain overnight into the 5th became more patchy before clearing southwards during the afternoon and evening. The 6th to 8th continued fine and dry. The 9th and 10th saw much less in the way of cloud with plenty of sunshine and it was warmer as temperatures climbed to 21 to 22 °C.

11th to 24th:

The 11th to 15th were cooler and cloudier again but continued fine and generally dry. The 16th to 21st continued mainly dry and bright, and it was warm in the sunnier spots with temperatures reaching 20 to 21 °C in places. Another fine day on the 22nd but some rain spread south during the evening and overnight into the 23rd, which cleared away by the morning before some further showery rain returned for the evening and overnight. This rain cleared early on the 24th, and the day became mainly dry and bright.

25th to 30th:

On the 25th and 26th, winds freshened from the south-west as high pressure slipped away temporarily to the south, and there was some light rain overnight into the 26th which became a dry, sunny day generally. There was a return to light winds and fine, mainly dry weather on the 27th, although there were a few scattered

showers in the late afternoon. Continuing mainly dry and bright on the 28th, and feeling warmer in the sunshine. Some rain overnight in the north and west into the 29th, but elsewhere mainly dry and bright. A dry, bright start to the 30th before some light patchy rain arrived during the afternoon.

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